

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 INT-08 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 048709

R 241500Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3928

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BUJUMBURA 0750

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EAID, UNDP, BY

SUBJECT: INTEREST IN BURUNDI NICKEL AND PETROLEUM PROSPECTS

REF BUJUMBURA 466 AND 751

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN ELEMENTS OF TEXT OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE DISPATCH REPORTING DISCOVERY OF NICKEL DEPOSITS IN BURUNDI. DISPATCH HAS APPEARED IN NUMBER OF EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS AND UNDERSTOOD TO BE CAUSING SOME INTEREST IN MINING CIRCLES: BEGIN QUOTE

A. IT IS LEARNED FROM INFORMED SOURCES IN BUJUMBURA THAT THE PROSPECTING UNDERTAKEN BY A ROMANIAN ENGINEER, UNDER THE UNDP, HAS LED TO THE DISCOVERY OF IMPORTANT INDICATIONS OF VARIOUS MINERALS OF WHICH THE MOST ABUNDANT ARE NICKEL, COBALT, URANIUM, AND COPPER.

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B. THE FIRST EXPLORATION WAS DONE IN THE WESTERN

PART OF THE COUNTRY ALONG THE CONGO-NILE WATERSHED, THEN  
IN THE CENTER OF BURUNDI.

C. IT IS IN THE LATTER PLACE THAT THE GROLOGISTS  
HAVE FOUND, SOUTH OF GITEGA, 112 KILOMTERES FROM  
BUJUMBURA, A 20-KILOMETER LONG DEPOSIT OF NICKEL  
LOCATED BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF BUKIRASIZI AND RUTANA.  
HOWEVER, THE TOTAL CONTENT OF THE DEPOSIT HAS NOT BEEN  
CALCULATED WITH PRECISION.

D. THE INTEREST CREATED BY THIS DISCOVERY, OF WHICH  
THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES SEEM ALREADY TO BE  
EVIDENT, IS CONSIDERABLE.

E. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUPS,  
BELONGING TO THE SAME CONSORTIUM, ARRIVED IN BUJUMBURA AT THE  
END OF LAST WEEK (JULY 13) TO NEGOTIATE RIGHTS OF EXPLORATION  
AND EXPLOITATION, WE LEARN FROM A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE BURUNDI  
GOVERNMENT.

F. THE SAME SOURCE NOTES THAT A THIRD FINANCIAL GROUP,  
BELGIAN, IS ALSO REPRESENTED IN BUJUMBURA FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

G. THE SAME SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE CONCENTRATION  
OF NICKEL IN THE ORE FOUND IN BURUNDI IS THREE TIMES THAT  
OF CALIFORNIA ORES.

H. IF THE DISCOVERIES MADE BY THE UNDP FULFILL THEIR  
PROMISE, BURUNDI WILL SOON ENTER THE INDUSTRIAL ERA.

I. BUT IT IS GOING TO BE A LONG-TERM TASK, SINCE THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF RAILROADS, HIGHWAYS,  
AND THE CREATION OF A HYDROELECTRIC INDUSTRY HAVE TO COME  
FIRST.

J. BURUNDI'S MINERAL WEALTH IS NOT LIMITED TO METALS.  
AN AMERICAN COMPANY IS PROSPECTING AT THE PRESENT TIME IN THE  
PLAIN NORTH OF LAKE TANGANYIKA WHERE TRACES OF  
PERTOLEUM HAVE RECENTLY BEEN DISCOVERED. UNQUOTE

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2. GRB DIRECTOR OF MINES, NDEZAKO ALOIS, HAS PUBLICLY  
CALLED AFP DISPATCH "PREMATURE". HE NOTES THAT SIGNS ARE  
HOPEFUL BUT THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO TALK OF DEPOSITS, IN  
PARTICULAR SINCE EXPLORATION WORK IN AREA BEGAN ONLY A LITTLE  
OVER A YEAR AGO. DIRECTOR ALSO NOTED THAT EXPLORATION  
IN RUZIZI PLAIN AND IN LAKE TANGANYIKA IS STILL GOING ON AND,  
ALTHOUGH CERTAIN ZONES SEEM INTERESTING, PETROLEUM PROSPECTS  
CONJECTURAL. WITH REGARD TO CONSORTIUM ALREADY IN

BURUNDI, DIRECOTR HAZARDS GUESS THEY CAME "FOR PURPOSE  
OTHER THAN TO NEGOTIATE FOR NICKEL".

3. FULL TEXTS CONTAINED FLASH INFOR JULY 21.YOST

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINING, NICKEL, COPPER, PETROLEUM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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